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Message Text

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45
ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 PM-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00 L-02 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PRS-01 DPW-01 EUR-10

IO-03 RSR-01 /070 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3474
INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11094

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, MARR, CA, HU, ID
SUBJECT: SITREP FOR JUNE 20, 1973

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO BEING REPEATED

QUOTE
CAN THO 477

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, MARR, CA
SUBJECT: SITREP FOR JUNE 20, 1973

SUMMARY: DELTA MILITARY ACTIVITY SLACKENED ON THE FOURTH DAY FOLLOWING CEASEFIRE II. THE 9 TH ARVN DIVISION REMAINS ALERT IN THE HONG NGU BORDER AREA. INCREDULOUS POLGARIANS BELIEVE CANADIANS ON ICCS. END SUMMARY.

1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) VC/ NVA CEASEFIRE " VIOLATIONS" ACCORDING TO MR IV, FELL OFF TO 34 JUNE 19 FROM THE PRE-VIOUS DAY' S 52. MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS AT A VERY LOW LEVEL IN EVERY DELTA PROVINCE SAVE CHUONG THIEN. AMONG THE 34 INCIDENTS WERE 18 ATTACKS BY FIRE, 14 HARASSMENTS, ONE
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TERRORIST ACT, AND ONLY ONE GROUND ASSAULT. RVNAF CASUALTIES WERE 38 KILLED AND 72 WOUNDED. 36 VC/ NVA WERE REPORTED KILLED. MR IV BRIEFERS SAID THERE WERE 24 GVN " SECURITY OPERATIONS," BUT GAVE NO DETAILS.
(B) MOST DELTA PROVINCES REPORTED A LULL IN FIGHTING JUNE 19. CHAU DOC WAS PERFECTLY QUIET, AND VINH BINH SAW ONLY ONE MORTARING INCIDENT. KIEN GIANG EXPERIENCED ONLY THREE HARASSMENTS. THREE PHONG DINH OUTPOSTS RECEIVED MORTAR FIRE, ONE WITH PSDF KILLED AND ONE WOUNDED. THE DAY PASSED UNEVENTUALLY IN AN XUYEN, EXCEPT FOR THE DISCOVERY OF AN APPARENTLY CAST- OFF PLASTIC CHARGE JUST 20 METERS FROM THE AMERICAN PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE' S DOOR. POLICE REMOVED AND EXPLODED THE CHARGE HARMLESSLY. DINH TAONG WAS ALSO TRANQUIL WITH ONLY FOUR INCIDENTS RE- PORTED. ONE OF THEM, THE VC ROCKETED THE TAM BINH VILLAGE OFFICE, CAI LAY DISTRICT, WOUNDING THE VILLAGE CHIEF. KIEN HOPKIS AVERAGING ONLY THREE INCIDENTS A DAY. THE PROVINCE CHIEF THERE IS USING THE LULL IN FIGHTING TO REINFORCE AND RESUPPLY HIS OUTPOSTS.
(C) ONLY CHUONG THIEN REPORTED SIGNIFICANT COMBAT. BUT EVEN IN THIS MUCH FOUGHT- OVER PIECE OF REAL ESTATE, MILITARY ACTIVITY EBBED SOMEWHAT. SECTOR AUTHORITIES COMPLAINED OF TEN SCATTERED VC/ NVA INITIATED INCIDENTS, MOSTLY LIGHT CON- TACT BETWEEN GROUND FORCES. THE VC MORTARED AN OUTPOST THREE KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF VI THANH FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE NIGHT. AMERICAN SOURCES SAY THE GVN IS FIRING MUCH ARTILLERY IN THE PROVINCE WITH LITTLE RESULT.
(D) THE 9 TH ARVN DIVISION FINDS IT IS UNWELCOME IN CHUONG THIEN. SINCE THE 16 TH REGIMENT OF THE 9 TH DIVISION ARRIVED IN LONG MY DISTRICT 12 DAYS AGO, IT HAS BEEN UNDER CONTINUAL GROUND AND MORTAR ATTACK BY WHAT DIVISION COMMANDER MGEN TRAN BA DI BELIEVES TO BE THE VC D-1 REGIMENT. DI' S TROOPS HAVE SUFFERED 15 KILLED AND 42 WOUNDED, INCLUDING ELEVEN BATTALION COMMANDERS, IN THE CHUONG THIEN FIGHTING.
(E) THE VC VINH CHAU DISTRICT CHIEF DIED IN A GVN AMBUSH THE EVENING OF JUNE 14/15. HE WAS PART OF A GROUP OF 6-10 VC ATTEMPTING TO CROSS THE MY THANH RIVER BETWEEN BA XUYEN AND BAC LIEU. THE DISTRICT CHIEF' S DEATH WAS CON- FIRMED WHEN HIS WIDOW IN VINH CHAU SET UP AN ALTAR FOR HER HUSBAND INSIDE THEIR HOUSE.
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(F) THE HONG NGU AREA, KIEN PHONG PROVINCE, HAS BEEN UNUSUALLY QUIET SINCE CEASE FIRE II. THE CALM IS DECEPTIVE. THE 9 TH ARVN DIVISION HAS IDENTIFIED THREE, AND POSSIBLY FOUR, NORTH VIETNAMESE REGIMENTS ON THE CAMBODIAN SIDE OF THE BORDER. THEY INCLUDE THREE BATTALIONS OF THE 75 TH ARTILLERY REGIMENT, THE 207 TH REGIMENT OF THE 6 TH NVA DIVISION, AND THE 272 ND REGIMENT OF THE 5 TH NVA DIVISION.

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SOME INTELLIGENCE PLACES THE 272 ND REGIMENT OF THE 9 TH NVA DIVISION JUST ABOVE THE BORDER; OTHER REPORTS LOCATE IT IN TAY NINH PROVINCE. ACCORDING TO 9 TH ARVN DIVISION COMMANDER MGEN TRAN BA DI, RADIO INTERCEPTS CONFIRM THAT THE NVA INTEND TO PURSUE THEIR OFFENSIVE AGAINST HONG NGU. HE DOES NOT KNOWHHAT DATE THE NVA INTENDS TO ATTACK BUT BELIEVES THEY WILL NOT MOVE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. TO OPPOSE THE NVA THREAD DI IS MAINTAINING ON THE VIETNAMESE SIDE OF THE BORDER THREE BATTALIONS OF THE 15 TH ARVN REGIMENT, ONE BATTALION OF THE 14 TH, AND AN ARMORED CAVALRY TROOP.

ICCS: THE CANADIAN REGION VII ICCS CHIEF ATTEMPTED TO DRAW OUT HIS EASTERN EUROPEAN COLLEAGUES ON THE FUTURE OF THE ICCS DURING AN " INFORMAL DISCUSSION" AT THE JUNE 19 REGION VII CHIEFS MEETING. TO HIS SURPRISE HE FOUND THAT BOTH THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS THOUGHT THAT CANADA WOULD NOT ACTUALLY WITHDRAW FROM THE ICCS. THE POLE AS MUCH AS SAID THAT HE THOUGHT EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER SHARP' S WITHDRAWAL ANNOUNCEMENT WAS A CANADIAN ATTEMPT TO COERCE THE OTHER DELEGATIONS INTO FOLLOWING THE CANADIAN LINE. THE CHIEF HUNGARIAN DELEGATE, TOO, SAID HE EXPECTED CANADA TO REMAIN ON THE COMMISSION. THE POLISH CHIEF SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THE COMMISSION SHOULD IN THE FUTURE PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THE " SUPERVISORY ASPECTS" OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. HE CITED AS AN EXAMPLE ICCS SUPER-VISION OF THE DESTRUCTION OF OLD AMMUNITION (CAN THO 0464).
WISNER UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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